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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

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MEANING OF FREE COINAGE EXPLAINED

Director of the Mint Tells how to turn Bullion into Dollars.

CAN TAKE ANY OLD SILVER

Any one Having it Can Get Cash at the Mints—The Only Charge Under the Proposed Policy Would be for Alloy.

Director of the U. S. Mint Preston was asked exactly what might occur when any one has the right to take bullion to the mint for coinage, the character of the metal that can be presented, what the mode of procedure would be, the cost of the coinage, the amount that would be returned to the person submitting the metal for government stamp and the official interpretation of the term "sixteen to one."

"Until there has been legislation carrying out in detail the general plan of the free coinage of silver, such as contemplated by the platform at Chicago," Mr. Preston replied, "it will, of course, be impossible to describe accurately just what will have to be done. I can only explain to you generally what the routine would be, based on experience gained before the repeal of the Sherman law, and upon what free coinage of silver is generally interpreted to mean. In the first place, silver in any form, if not too base for the operation of the mints, will be received from anybody and coined into silver dollars or bars free of charge, except the cost of the alloy employed, which is two cents per ounce.

"The word 'unlimited,' as used in the Chicago platform, means that there shall be no restriction as to the amount of bullion permitted to be received and coined. Unless by legislation the coinage of silver should be limited to American product, our mints would be open to all the silver in the world, and it may safely be stated that without such a restriction the United States would within a few years have the surplus silver of the world. By surplus I mean all the silver not used by other nations as subsidiary coin.

CAN TAKE ANY OLD SILVER

"Under a free silver law any one possessing old silver spoons, silverware, or anything else containing silver, would have the privilege of taking such articles to the mints and having them coined into silver dollars. It is not to be expected, however, that the mints will be called upon to perform much work of this character. It will be the smelters and refiners who will do most of this work.

"There is a mistaken notion as to the class of people who take bullion to the mints to be coined. It is generally supposed that mine owners do this. As a rule they do not. Their work is confined to taking ore from the mines and selling it to the smelting and refining establishments. There are about a dozen of these establishments now in operation, and with a free coinage law, of course, the number will greatly increase. There are two in Denver, Col.; one each in Leadville, Col.; Omaha, Neb.; Kansas City, Kan.; Perth, Amboy and Newark, N. J.; Pittsburg, Pa.; Chicago, Ill.; San Francisco, Cal., and one in course of erection in Idaho. From these establishments would come ninety per cent. of all the bullion that would be sent to the mints to be coined.

"To avoid embarrassment to the mints by those having small quantities of old silverware, it is probable that bullion of less value than \$100 will not be received, as provided in the old coinage law. This will be the routine pursued in the matter of having bullion coined into money:

"It will be taken in person or shipped direct to the respective mints. It will be weighed in the presence of the depositor or his agent, and the weight be verified by the register, of deposits. The weigh clerk and register will then enter in their respective books the name of the depositor, number and date of each deposit, kind of bullion, weight before melting, and, if it can be ascertained, the state or country from which it is derived. The depositor will then be given a receipt for the value of his deposit, if it is of such character that its value can be ascertained before melting.

NO WAITING FOR THE MONEY.

"From the weight of the bullion after melting and the report of the assayer as to finess, the value of such deposit and the amount of charges will be computed, and a detailed statement given to the depositor. When the depositor presents his receipt and certificate for the net value he will sign the receipt, and the coin or bars will then be paid to him.

"It is not to be presumed, however, that under a free coinage law a person presenting bullion would have to wait for his money until the material which he has presented had actually been coined. All that will be necessary will be to wait until the actual value of his bullion is

ascertained. Nor is it to be presumed that any great number of people will go to the mints for their silver dollars. The chances are that you will not find any more cart wheel dollars in circulation under a free silver law than there are now. The coin is too cumbersome. The people may want free silver, but they would rather have a government paper equivalent for it than its actual weight in metal.

"The result will be that silver certificates will be authorized to take the place of the silver dollar, and the United States treasury will have to be a storehouse for the bulk of the metal. This will bring up the question of increased vault room at the treasury and sub-treasuries. Our vaults in the treasury are now overcrowded, and there is no space left for erecting additional vaults. A new treasury building may, therefore, be in order, not to speak of the additional mints that will be necessary. We now have mints located at Philadelphia, San Francisco, New Orleans and Carson City. The latter has been closed for some time. A free coinage law will mean the construction of at least half a dozen additional mints.

"The term 'sixteen to one' means that the pure silver in the standard dollar weighs about sixteen times as much as the pure gold in the gold dollar. A silver dollar now contains 371.25 grains of silver, while a gold dollar contains 23.22 grains of gold. At the time of the establishment of the United States mints congress agreed that the ratio between silver and gold should be as fifteen pounds to one pound, this being at that time the relative values of the two metals. It was subsequently found that this ratio gave too high a value to silver. It was accordingly changed to sixteen to one.

FIFTY-THREE CENT DOLLARS.

"By this action congress jumped on the other side of the stream. In European countries the ratio had been fixed at fifteen and a half to one. As a result the silver owners of the United States shipped all their product to Europe for coinage, and, until 1873, when the revision of the coinage laws occurred, only about eight millions of silver dollars had been coined. Under the Bland-Allison act, four hundred million silver dollars were coined, and these, added to the notes issued under the Sherman act, make the total amount of silver in currency more than five hundred millions, all on a sixteen to one ratio.

"At the present time the value of silver in the markets of the world is about thirty pounds of the white metal to one of gold. Our people would, therefore, under the ratio of sixteen to one, have fifty-three cent dollars, which might circulate for their face value in the United States, but which would only be accepted at their bullion value abroad.

"Unless congress enacts some special provision preventing it, the nations of the world, in case a free coinage law is placed on the statute books, can ship all their bullion to the United States for coinage. Here it will receive the government stamp and will be used to buy American goods for shipment abroad. The result will be that foreigners will get all American goods at half price, while Americans will have to pay the full rate for them.

"There is this danger of our trade being injured. At present silver is admitted free of duty in the United States. Treasury officials say that unless congress placed a high tariff on the white metal, so as to prohibit its importation, the nations of the world would make the United States the dumping ground for their silver, retaining only a sufficient quantity of the metal in their circulation to act as subsidiary coin."

State Teachers.

The forty-first annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Teachers' association will be held at Bloomsburg on July 14, 15 and 16. The pedagogues will have the brainiest kind of a time.

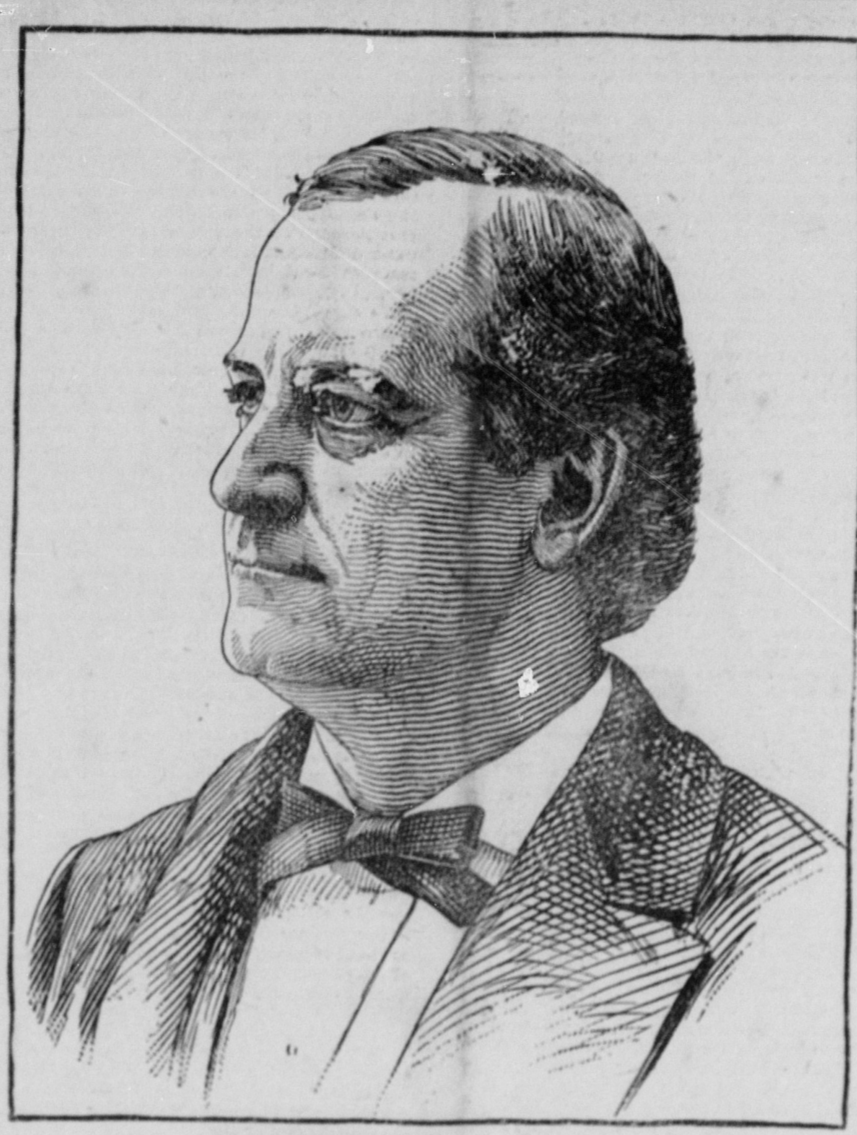
D. F. Fortney, Esq., president of the Bellefonte borough school board, left on Tuesday morning to attend the sessions. On Wednesday morning he will address the association upon the "Relation of the Normal schools to the common schools." Mr. Fortney takes an active interest in school work and is well informed.

Clinton Co. Crops.

The farmers are done with their harvesting and most of the grain is stored away in the barns. The wheat crop is estimated at a half to a third of a crop in the county. There were many fields of wheat that were first-class, while others will not yield five bushels to the acre. The hay is light, too, and will hardly average more than a half a crop the county over. All of the crops this year seem to be ripening considerably earlier than in other years.

Hard on the Eyesight.

An eminent oculist says that no man can smoke cigarettes and retain good eyesight.



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

DEMOCRATIC RATIFICATION.

The Nomination of Bryan Creates Enthusiasm.

FREE SILVER IS THE ISSUE.

A Large Demonstration Last Friday Evening—Bands, Fireworks Enthusiastic Addresses—Great Interest Manifested—Many Republican Converts.

The good old town of Bellefonte was awakened from its mid-summer lethargy on last Friday evening by an impromptu ratification. It was a democratic ratification that seemed to startle our republican brethren, who stood about the corners with their hands in their pockets surprised and somewhat dismayed.

The enthusiasm displayed over the nomination of William Jennings Bryan, of Lincoln, Nebraska, for the presidency, by the democratic national convention in session then at Chicago, was a surprise. The news of the nomination were received at 5 p. m. that afternoon and at 7 p. m. the bands were playing on the diamond and a fine display of fireworks was given from the front of the court house and attracted a large assemblage of people. A large portrait of the nominee, executed by McSuley, the artist, was placed about the main pillar on the front of the court house. This was the occasion for rounds of applause, that was taken up by the great crowd.

From the steps of the court house a number of stirring addresses were made. The meeting was opened by an address from Hammond Sechler, the well-known groceryman and sterling democrat of this place. He was followed by Messrs. W. C. Heinle, J. H. Wetzel, C. M. Bower, and H. S. Taylor.

It was a remarkably enthusiastic demonstration. The sentiments of the speakers were applauded to the echo and the mere mention of the nominee's name was the occasion for ringing cheers. One significant fact in the demonstration was the large attendance, and close attention of the public to hear some of the issues defined and briefly discussed. Another point: There were a great many republicans in the audience anxious to hear about the silver issue and a large number were open and pronounced advocates of the free silver sentiment, and expressed their intention of voting that way this year.

After the meeting the band discoursed several excellent selections and the audience dispersed.

SILVER DISCUSSION.

Wherever you went that evening here and there, were small groups of men discussing the silver question. In this you would find republicans strongly arguing the benefits of free silver, and some well-known, old line democrats upholding the gold standard. Groups of earnest listeners standing by eager to gather information about this new issue, which seems to have divided party lines considerably and is gaining strength in all sections of the county.

Scores of republicans in Bellefonte have expressed their intention of voting the democratic ticket this year because they believe in "free silver." Then there are a number of democrats, who, from conviction, will depart from party lines and support the gold standard non-

ECHOES FROM THE CONVENTION.

An Interview With Col. Spangler Upon His Return.

FREE SILVER CAUSE WILL WIN

Some of his Impressions—It was a Remarkable Gathering—Tillman and Altgeld as They are seen—Growth of the Silver Sentiment.

On Saturday evening Col. J. J. Spangler arrived home from his trip to Chicago, to attend the Democratic National convention. The latter part of his journey was made from Tyroce, late Saturday evening by private conveyance. The Col. is a close observer on such occasions, and as a result he has much to relate that is interesting. The building in which the convention held its sessions was a monstrous affair. At one time, by actual count, there were 25,000 persons in it and so perfect were the acoustic properties that the proceedings were audible to almost every spectator. It was well ventilated, and the immense crowd was so well managed that there was little confusion or disturbance.

This convention he characterized as the most remarkable he ever witnessed, and predicts that it will be a memorable event in political history. It was in striking contrast with all former gatherings, from the fact that the representatives of the Eastern states, who in the past century have framed platforms, moulded sentiment, named candidates and practically directed the destiny of the nation were now defied and ignored. The representatives from the great Mississippi Valley and the South had successfully pooled their strength, they were in the majority and were united and determined to force free silver to the front as the dominant issue of the democratic party.

No sooner had their delegation been quartered at the Palmer House than the free silver enthusiasts from the South and West besieged them for the privilege of discussing the free silver issue. On the streets, in the hotel corridors, at the bars—everywhere—were silver men. They were vigorously presenting their doctrine, and always eager and anxious for the opportunity. They were convinced of the justness of their cause and prosecuted it with an energy and perseverance that could not fail but command respect and attention of thoughtful men.

In speaking of "Pitchfork Tillman," Col. Spangler says everybody was permitted to speak, it was an open forum; yet the course of Tillman was denounced by all. His villainous utterances were hissed and hooted, and if he had any sympathizers in the convention they were few and not to be found. Tillman was denounced from every quarter. His presence was a misfortune—it could not be helped. He was simply a black sheep. Or like a Judas among the apostles, a discredit to the cause he espoused.

As to Gov. Altgeld, Col. Spangler is of the opinion that he is a much-misrepresented man. He is not the red-handed, coarse, vulgar, anarchist like our Eastern papers paint him. In personal appearance he is of fine features, polite address; gentlemanly deportment, and of scholarly attainments. His address before the convention was one of the ablest delivered. In Chicago and Illinois, Gov. Altgeld is in touch with the people. They have the utmost confidence in his integrity and ability. The citizens of that section maintain that the Eastern press has grossly misrepresented the man and defiled his character and public career. He served, at one time, as judge in the courts and was respected for his ability. The pardon of the anarchists, they now consider as just, because public sentiment was against them, at the trial, and some innocent men suffered. Conservative men in that city now uphold the Gov. for his course. Col. Spangler, in speaking with Gov. Altgeld's Adjutant General, was informed that the Gov. at the time of the Chicago riots had seven thousand state troops ready to move, if the Mayor of the city of Chicago had only asked for them. They could not act until then. So that if this be the correct statement of affairs he cannot be the outlaw the Eastern people paint him. As proof of this, he will be re-elected Gov. of that state by an increased majority this fall. These are the impressions, as they were gathered by Col. Spangler as he mingled with the people and conversed with their prominent leaders in attendance at the convention. It is safe to presume that there is good citizenship and integrity in that great state, as well as the other sections of the country, and that the East, by no means, holds a monopoly upon the God-given gifts to humanity.

In speaking of the convention the Col. considers it the most remarkable gathering in the history of our party. New leaders came forward, new issues were pushed to the front, new forces dominated

the South and West. The scenes in the convention were at times the most exciting and beyond description. The ovation given the "Boy orator from the Platte" when he finished his defence of the platform in reply to senator Hill's masterly effort, was one that cannot be described. The orator captured the entire audience by his eloquent utterances and finely carved phrases. He at once became their idol, and many foresaw that it would secure for Wm. J. Bryan the highest honors of his party, the nomination for the presidency of this great nation.

Many of the Eastern delegates were disgusted with the platform adopted by the convention, and openly denounced it in the severest language. In this the prominent New York delegates were the most pronounced. They are opposed to free silver, and other planks are considered with disfavor.

Even with this dissatisfaction existing, there is a corresponding growth of silver sentiment among republicans in the West that will make it possible and probable that Bryan will be elected without the support of the East. We, in this section, can not fully appreciate the strength of the free silver movement until we come in contact with it, as at Chicago. They are in earnest, determined and will make an aggressive fight to the finish.

So that in November, when the smoke of battle has cleared away McKinley's forces will be slain—another Waterloo—and "THE NEXT PRESIDENT WILL BE A DEMOCRAT."

DON'T GET EXCITED.

The campaign is on. Yes, and men are commencing to make fools of themselves already arguing politics until they get blue, back of the neck and the veins stand out gorging over their cranium. That is nonsense. Never gained a vote. Go slow. Don't get excited. Don't get hot—the weather is hot enough. Don't get profane and curse your best friend because he don't agree with you. If somebody else makes a fool of himself that is no reason why you should do likewise. Be liberal and manly. Be patient and forbearing with your political neighbor who may differ with your views. Be sure to attend to your business and provide for your wife and family a good livelihood. Try and pay all your honest bills, be a law abiding citizen, and you will be happy and prosperous and have the promise of a ripe old age. Avoid the professional politicians who loaf about the stores and hotels, chewing vile tobacco and drinking bad rum. Often they are not good citizens or of any benefit to the community.

When November comes go and vote for what you consider the most consistent with your views and the welfare of your country. That is good citizenship, and the highest type of patriotic duty.

A Great Truth.

The Punksutawney Spirit has the faculty of saying a great many good things full of truth, and the following is a sample:

There is more religion, philosophy, humanity and genuine common sense in the words "Love one another" than in any other sentence that could be constructed. If people really would learn to love one another with a true spirit of brotherhood, all the perplexing social and economic questions would be solved. It is the solution of the labor question, and of the financial question. The policy of those who believe in inflation and repudiation is to arouse the prejudice of the poor against the rich—to make them hate one another. It is just as essential to the man who has one dollar that it be a good one, as to the man who has a million. It is all he has. If we love one another—if we would get down to the bed rock of honest principle and brotherly affection, there would be nothing complex about these questions. But when they are mixed up with prejudice, misinformation and delusion they become utterly confused and obscure.

Compelled to Enlarge.

The increasing popularity of the Central State Normal school has compelled the board of trustees to provide measures for relieving the overtaxed accommodations of that institution. It was decided to add extensions of eighty feet to the eastern and western ends of the present building.

By the erection of these extensions about 160 more students can be accommodated, which will increase the boarding capacity to about 500 individuals. During the last spring term lodging and boarding had to be provided for about 150 students outside the Normal. Operations will begin at once, so that the extensions will be ready for occupancy when the spring term of 1897 opens.

RESIDENCE FOR THE PRINCIPAL.

Along with the improvements to the main building, the Petrikin property will be remodeled and furnished with the view of making it the permanent residence of the principal and his family.